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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

BRITNEY BRANDS, INC.,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

SKECHERS USA., INC.,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO. CV02-9774-AHM(JWJx)

ORDER SETTING RULE 26(f)  
SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

Date: May 12, 2003  
Time: 1:30 p.m.

ENTER ON ICMS

MAR 13 2003

MAR 13 2003

This case has been assigned to Judge A. Howard Matz. If plaintiff has not already served the complaint (or any amendment thereto) on all defendants, plaintiff shall promptly do so and shall file proofs of service within three days thereafter. Defendants also shall timely serve and file their responsive pleadings and file proofs of service within three days thereafter.

This matter is set for a scheduling conference on the above date. The conference will be held pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 16(b). The parties are reminded of their obligations under Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(1) to disclose information (without awaiting a discovery request) and under R. 26(f) to confer on a discovery plan not later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduling conference and to file a

9

1 report with the Court entitled "Joint Rule 26(f) Report" not later than fourteen  
 2 (14) days after they confer. Failure to comply with the following requirements or  
 3 to cooperate in the preparation of the Joint Rule 26(f) Report may lead to the  
 4 imposition of sanctions.

5 **Unless there is a likelihood that upon motion by a party the Court**  
 6 **would order that any or all discovery is premature, it is advisable for counsel**  
 7 **to begin to conduct discovery actively before the Scheduling Conference. At**  
 8 **the very least, the parties shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of**  
 9 **Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a) and thereby obtain and produce most of what would be**  
 10 **produced in the early stage of discovery, because at the Scheduling**  
 11 **Conference the Court will impose tight deadlines to complete discovery.**

12 **1. Joint Rule 26(f) Report.**

13 The Joint Rule 26(f) Report, which shall be filed not later than one week  
 14 before the scheduling conference, shall be drafted by plaintiff (unless the parties  
 15 agree otherwise), but shall be submitted and signed jointly. "Jointly"  
 16 contemplates a single report, regardless of how many separately-represented  
 17 parties there are. The Joint Rule 26(f) Report shall report on all matters  
 18 enumerated below, which include those required to be discussed by Rule 26(f) and  
 19 Local Rule 26:

- 20 a. **a short synopsis** (not to exceed two pages) of the main claims,  
 21 counterclaims, and/or affirmative defenses.
- 22 b. a brief description of the **key legal issues**.
- 23 c. the realistic range of **provable damages**.
- 24 d. whether there is **insurance coverage**.
- 25 e. a statement of the **likelihood of motions** seeking to (i) add other  
 26 parties or claims or (ii) file amended pleadings or (iii) transfer venue.
- 27 f. **Discovery and Experts**. Pursuant to Rule 26(f), state what, if any,  
 28 changes in the disclosures under R. 26(a) should be made; the

1 subjects on which discovery may be needed and whether discovery  
 2 should be conducted in phases or otherwise be limited; what  
 3 discovery has been conducted thus far; whether applicable limitations  
 4 should be changed or other limitations imposed; and whether the  
 5 Court should enter other orders. Please state how many depositions  
 6 each side will conduct. Also discuss the proposed time of **expert**  
 7 **witness disclosures** under F.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(2).

8 g. a description of the issues or claims that any party believes may be  
 9 determined by motion for **summary judgment or motion *in limine***.

10 h. a statement of what **settlement** discussions and/or written  
 11 communications have occurred (specifically excluding any statement  
 12 of the terms discussed) and a statement pursuant to the Local Rule  
 13 16-14.4 selecting a settlement mechanism under that rule.

14 i. a realistic (not padded) **estimate of the time required for trial** and  
 15 whether trial will be by jury or by court. Each side should specify  
 16 (by number, not by name) how many witnesses it contemplates  
 17 calling. If the time estimate for trial given in the Rule 26(f) Joint  
 18 Report exceeds eight court days, counsel shall be prepared at the  
 19 Scheduling Conference to explain why a lengthier trial is estimated.

20 j. **Presumptive Schedule of Pretrial Dates.** The parties should fill in  
 21 the form attached as Exhibit A to this Order and attach it to the Rule  
 22 26(f) report. *The current entries in the "Weeks Before Trial" column*  
 23 *merely reflect what the Court believes are appropriate for many, if*  
 24 *not most, cases; those entries are not necessarily applicable to this*  
 25 *case, and the form is designed to enable counsel to request the Court*  
 26 *to set different last dates by which the key requirements must be*  
 27 *completed.* Each side should write in the month, day and year it  
 28 requests for each event. *E.g., for the expert discovery cut-off it might*

be "10/7/02" for plaintiff and "10/28/02" for defendant, if they cannot agree. At the conference, the Court will review this form with counsel. Each entry proposing dates shall fall on a Monday, except the trial date which is a Tuesday. In appropriate cases the Court will order different dates after it hears from Counsel. **The proposed non-expert and expert discovery cut-off date means:** The last day by which all depositions must be completed and responses to all previously-served written discovery must be provided. **It does not mean** the last day to initiate discovery or to file a motion with the magistrate judge seeking to compel discovery. **The proposed cut-off date for motions means:** The last date on which motions may be heard, not noticed.

k. a statement of any **other issues affecting the status or management** of the case (*e.g.*, unusually complicated technical or technological issues, disputes over protective orders, extraordinarily voluminous document production, non-English speaking witnesses, discovery in foreign jurisdictions, etc.).

l. **for conflict purposes**, corporate parties must identify all subsidiaries, parents and affiliates.

m. **Patent Cases:** Propose dates and methodology for claim construction and *Markman* hearings.

n. **Do the parties wish to have a Magistrate Judge preside?** Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge preside over all the proceedings, not just discovery. They may pick *any* Magistrate Judge (not just the one assigned to this case) from among those Magistrate Judges who accept these designations. (They are identified on the Central District's website, which also contains the consent form.)

1 The Joint Rule 26(f) Report should set forth the above enumerated  
2 information under section headings corresponding to this Order.

3 **2. Scheduling Conference.** The Scheduling Conference will be held in  
4 Courtroom 14 of the Federal Courthouse at 312 N. Spring Street. Counsel shall  
5 comply with the following:

- 6 a. **Participation.** The lead trial attorney must attend the Scheduling  
7 Conference, unless excused for good cause shown in advance of the  
8 Scheduling Conference.
- 9 b. **Continuance.** A continuance of the Scheduling Conference will be  
10 granted only for good cause.
- 11 c. **Use of Conference Telephone.** If one or more of the lead counsel has  
12 his or her office outside of Los Angeles County, the Court is  
13 normally willing, at counsel's request, to conduct the status  
14 conference by conference telephone call. Please contact the court  
15 clerk at (213) 894-5283 to get approval. Opposing counsel who are  
16 outside of Los Angeles County may also participate by telephone.  
17 The attorney who has received approval to participate by telephone  
18 shall call (213) 894-5290 at the time and date specified above for  
19 specific instructions, which might include being required to remain  
20 available on the telephone until the case is called. After the other  
21 participants are assembled, that attorney will be notified that he or  
22 she must promptly originate the conference call.

23 **3. Protective Orders.** If you seek a protective order, propose it to opposing  
24 counsel before the Scheduling Conference, if at all possible. In a separate order,  
25 the Court has enumerated precise requirements for protective orders and the  
26 treatment of confidential information. In proposing a protective order for this  
27 case, please comply with that order, which is available on the Court's website.  
28

1 **4. Notice to be Provided by Counsel.** Plaintiff's counsel or, if plaintiff is  
2 appearing *pro se*, defendant's counsel, shall provide this Order to any parties who  
3 first appear after the date of this Order and to parties who are known to exist but  
4 have not yet entered appearances.


5 **5. Disclosures to Clients.** Counsel are ordered to deliver to their respective  
6 clients a copy of this Order and of the Court's Scheduling and Case Management  
7 Order, which contains the schedule that the Court imposes at the Scheduling  
8 Conference.

9 **6. Court's Website.** Copies of this and all other orders of this Court that may  
10 become applicable to this case are available on the Central District of California  
11 website, at "www.cacd.uscourts.gov," under "Judge's Requirements." Copies of  
12 the Local Rules are available on the website.<sup>1</sup>

13 The Court thanks the parties and their counsel for their anticipated  
14 cooperation in carrying out these requirements.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16  
17 Dated: MAR 12 2003

  
A. HOWARD MATZ  
United States District Judge

18  
19 Copies to:  
20 All Counsel of Record  
21  
22  
23  
24

25 <sup>1</sup> They may also be purchased from one of the following:

26 Los Angeles Daily Journal  
27 915 East First Street  
28 Los Angeles, CA 90012

West Publishing Company  
50 West Kellogg Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55164-9979

Metropolitan News  
210 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**JUDGE A HOWARD MATZ**  
**PRESUMPTIVE SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL DATES**

Matter	Time	Weeks before trial	Plaintiff's Request	Defendant's Request	Court Order
Trial date (Jury) (court) Estimated length: _____ days	8:00 a.m.				
[Court trial:] File Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Summaries of Direct Testimony		-1			
Final Pretrial Conference; Hearing on Motions in Limine; File Agreed Upon Set of Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms and Joint Statement re Disputed Instructions and Verdict Forms; File Proposed <i>Voir Dire</i> Qs and Agreed-to Statement of Case	11:00 a.m.	-2			
Lodge Pretrial Conf. Order File Memo of Contentions of Fact and Law; Exhibit List; Witness List; Status Report re Settlement		-3			
Last day for hand-serving Motions in Limine		-5			
Last day for hearing motions	10:00 a.m.	-7			
Last day for hand-serving motions and filing (other than Motions in Limine)		-11			
Non-expert Discovery cut-off		-15			

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED AT SCHEDULING CONFERENCE**

L.R. 16-14 Settlement Choice: (1) CT/USMJ (2) Atty (3) Outside ADR (4) Settlement Panel

Expert discovery cut-off					
Rebuttal Expert Witness Disclosure					
Opening Expert Witness Disclosure [See F.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(2)]					
Last day to conduct Settlement Conference					
Last day to amend pleadings or add parties					

**EXHIBIT A**